

What is Claimed is:

1. A network protector comprising:
an enclosure;
a frame assembly disposed within said enclosure;
a plurality of electrical components including a circuit breaker coupled to said frame assembly and having at least one set of main contacts and at least one arc chute associated with set of main contacts;
an arc path assembly having a hollow member having at least one open end, said hollow member in fluid communication with said arc chute; and
said hollow member extending beyond said frame assembly, whereby arc gasses traveling from said arc chute through said hollow member are exhausted into said enclosure.
2. The network protector of Claim 1, wherein:
said at least one arc chute extends generally vertically; and
said hollow member extends generally horizontally.
3. The network protector of Claim 2, wherein
said circuit breaker includes three sets of main contacts and said at least one arc chute includes three arc chutes, one arc chute being associated with each set of main contacts; and
said hollow member being coupled to said circuit breaker and wherein said hollow member is in fluid communication with each arc chute.
4. The network protector of Claim 3, wherein said hollow member is made from a non-conductive material.
5. The network protector of Claim 4, wherein said hollow member is made from fiber reinforced plastic resin, plastic resin coated fabric, vulcanized fabric, and fiber reinforced polyester laminate.

6. The network protector of Claim 5, wherein said hollow member includes two open ends, each open end extending beyond said frame assembly.

7. The network protector of Claim 6, wherein each said open end is disposed within said enclosure.

8. The network protector of Claim 1, wherein said hollow member includes two open ends, each open end extending beyond said frame assembly.

9. The network protector of Claim 8, wherein each said open end is disposed within said enclosure.

10. The network protector of Claim 1, wherein said hollow member is made from a non-conductive material.

11. An arc path assembly for a network protector, said network protector having a plurality of electrical components including a circuit breaker disposed on a frame assembly within an enclosure, said circuit breaker having at least one set of main contacts and at least one generally vertical arc chute associated with said at least one set of main contacts, said arc path assembly comprising:

a hollow member having at least one open end and at least one side opening; said side opening structured to be coupled to said at least one arc chute; and said at least one open end extending beyond said frame assembly, whereby arc gasses traveling from said arc chutes pass through said hollow member and are exhausted into said enclosure.

12. The arc path assembly of Claim 11, wherein:
said at least one arc chute extends generally vertically; and
said hollow member extends generally horizontally.

13. The arc path assembly of Claim 12, wherein

said circuit breaker includes three sets of main contacts and said at least one arc chute includes three arc chutes, one arc chute being associated with each set of main contacts; and

said hollow member being coupled to said circuit breaker and wherein said hollow member is in fluid communication with each arc chute.

14. The arc path assembly of Claim 13, wherein said hollow member is made from a non-conductive material.

15. The arc path assembly of Claim 14, wherein said hollow member is made from fiber reinforced plastic resin, plastic resin coated fabric, vulcanized fabric, and fiber reinforced polyester laminate.

16. The arc path assembly of Claim 15, wherein said hollow member includes two open ends, each open end extending beyond said frame assembly.

17. The arc path assembly of Claim 16, wherein each said open end is disposed within said enclosure.

18. The arc path assembly of Claim 11, wherein said hollow member includes two open ends, each open end extending beyond said frame assembly.

19. The arc path assembly of Claim 18, wherein each said open end is disposed within said enclosure.

20. The arc path assembly of Claim 11, wherein said hollow member is made from a non-conductive material.